

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE AND HOUSE RULES 602

**SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Senate Rule 602 is amended as follows:

**602. DIVIDED COMMITTEE REPORT.**

1. In case all the members of any committee required or entitled to report on any subject referred to them cannot agree upon any report, the majority and minority may each make a report as provided by this rule; and all reports, if decorous in language, and respectful to the Senate, must be entered at length in the journal, and must be announced by the Secretary as provided in Senate Rule 601.
2. A minority report must be signed by at least two members of the committee, or three members of the Appropriations Committee, who voted against the majority report and who have not voted for or signed any other report. A member may not vote for a report and refuse to sign that report.
3. The majority report is either the report signed by the largest number of committee members or the report signed by the committee chairman if that report is one of two or more reports signed by the largest and an equal number of members. The majority report must be placed on the calendar for consideration before consideration of any minority report. Minority reports must be placed on the calendar in order in accordance with the number of committee members signing the reports, with the report signed by the largest number of members being placed on the calendar first.
4. If more than one amendment is recommended by divided reports relating to a particular measure, the President shall direct that they be placed on the calendar in order in accordance with this rule.
5. The President shall also rule as to the effect of the adoption of the first report on each subsequent report.

**SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** House Rule 602 is amended as follows:

**602. DIVIDED COMMITTEE REPORT.**

- 1           1. In case all the members of any committee required or entitled to report on any  
2           subject referred to them cannot agree upon any report, the majority and minority  
3           may each make a report as provided by this rule; and all reports, if decorous in  
4           language, and respectful to the House, must be entered at length in the journal,  
5           and must be announced by the Chief Clerk as provided in House Rule 601.
- 6           2. A minority report must be signed by at least three members of the committee, or  
7           four members of the Appropriations Committee, who voted against the majority  
8           report and who have not voted for or signed any other report. A member may not  
9           vote for a report and refuse to sign that report.
- 10          3. The majority report is either the report signed by the largest number of committee  
11          members or the report signed by the committee chairman if that report is one of  
12          two or more reports signed by the largest and an equal number of members. The  
13          majority report must be placed on the calendar for consideration before  
14          consideration of any minority report. Minority reports must be placed on the  
15          calendar in order in accordance with the number of committee members signing  
16          the reports, with the report signed by the largest number of members being placed  
17          on the calendar first.
- 18          4. If more than one amendment is recommended by divided reports relating to a  
19          particular measure, the Speaker shall direct that they be placed on the calendar in  
20          order in accordance with this rule.
- 21          5. The Speaker shall also rule as to the effect of the adoption of the first report on  
22          each subsequent report.

**NOTE:** This proposed rules amendment is in response to questions on whether a member could vote for (and sign) a majority report and then vote for (but not sign) a minority report and whether committee members should be able to sign more than one minority report or vote for more than one minority report but sign only one.

A related question is whether a committee report, other than a conference committee report, should indicate whether a member refused to sign the report. In effect, a member can vote for a report, but then refuse to sign the report. Should the practice of recording in the journal whether a member voted for a report but refused to sign the report be changed so that the report only indicate the members who signed?